

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 054205

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ZAIRE SEEKS A LITTLE HELP FROM ITS FRIENDS

FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA HAS GIVEN AMBASSADOR CUTLER A STRAIGHTFORWARD AND URGENT PITCH ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT MOBUTU:

--THE BRAZZAVILLE AGREEMENT WITH THE MPLA WAS A PRACTICAL ACCOMMODATION TO THE SHIFT IN CENTRAL AFRICAN POWER BALANCE.

--THE ACCOMMODATION HAS BOUGHT TIME IN WHICH TO MODERNIZE ZAIRE'S ARMED FORCES TO COUNTER THE THREAT FROM ANGOLA.

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--ZAIRE'S "OLD FRIENDS" SHOULD REACTIVATE THE CONSULTA-

TIVE GROUP AND MOVE QUICKLY TO SUPPORT ZAIRE'S AND
ZAMBIA'S ECONOMIC STABILIZATION EFFORTS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE BELIEVE NGUZA IS MOVING IN THE RIGHT
DIRECTION BY STRESSING THE NEED FOR A COORDINATED EFFORT,
AND WE CAN ONLY ENCOURAGE THE DEPARTMENT TO REDOUBLE ITS

EFFORTS VIS-A-VIS OUR ALLIES TO ASSURE CLOSE COORDINATION.
ON NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA, WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT NGUZA'S
BELIEF THAT LITTLE TIME REMAINS TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING
OTHER THAN A VIOLENT RESULT. (CONFIDENTIAL) KINSHASA 1927,
3/4.)

2. FRANCO-PORTUGUESE RELATIONS ARE WARMING UP

A FRENCH MFA OFFICIAL BRIEFED EMBASSY PARIS ON FOREIGN MIN-
ISTER SAUVAGNARGUES' VISIT TO LISBON, DURING WHICH HE:

--DELIVERED A LETTER FROM GISCARD AGREEING IN PRINCI-
PLE TO OFFER MODEST BILATERAL ECONOMIC AID; AND

--AGREED TO ANNUAL FRANCO-PORTUGUESE CONSULTATIONS AT
THE MINISTERIAL AND POLITICAL DIRECTORS' LEVELS.

THE FRENCH RETURNED TO PARIS WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT A
RIGHT-WING COUP IN LISBON SEEMS UNLIKELY FOR THE MOMENT,
PARTICULARLY SINCE THE RIGHT IS LIKELY TO DO WELL IN THE
APRIL ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, THE CHOICE OF THE NEXT PORTU-
GUESE PRESIDENT IS STILL UP IN THE AIR AND THE QUAI SEES NO
FRONT RUNNERS. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 6543, 3/4.)

3. LEBANON: JUMBLATT LEADS MASSES TOWARD DEMOCRACY

FOLLOWING A CONVERSATION WITH JUMBLATT MARCH 4, CHARGE
LAMBRAKIS CHARACTERIZED THE LEFTIST LEADER AS NEGATIVE ON
ALMOST EVERY ISSUE AND APT TO SIDESTEP AN ARGUMENT RATHER
THAN FOLLOW THROUGH RATIONALLY. JUMBLATT STATED THAT:

-HIS CURRENT FRICTION WITH SYRIA WAS REFLECTED IN HIS
VIEWS ON THE DANGERS TO DEMOCRACY, LEBANON'S MOST PRE-
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CIOUS ASSET.

--THE SECRETARY WAS NOT TO BE TRUSTED, AND US POLICY
TOWARD ISRAEL, DEVOID OF THE IDEALISM OF THE EISEN-
HOWER YEARS, WAS DEPLORABLE AND TOTALLY PRAGMATIC.

CHARGE'S COMMENT: WHILE SINCERE IN HIS BELIEF THAT HE
HEADS A GENUINE MASS REVOLT WHICH IN TIME WILL RESULT IN

GREAT DEMOCRACY, JUMBLATT IS A DANGEROUS POLITICAL LEADER
WHO IS NOT PREPARED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS FOR THE SAKE OF
LEBANESE UNITY. (CONFIDENTIAL) DAMASCUS 2030 (LIMDIS),
3/4.) KISSINGER

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